

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

March 28, 1996

Business Meeting

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for the regular business meeting in Conference Rooms D and E of the James Monroe Building in Richmond, Virginia, on Thursday, March 28, 1996, with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton, President
Mrs. Lil Tuttle Vice President
Mr. Peter G. Decker, Jr.
Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.

Mrs. Kay Coles James
Senator James P. Jones
Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.
Mr. R. Lee Ware
Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke

Dr. William C. Boshier, Jr.
Secretary and
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Jones made a motion for approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 22, 1996. Copies of the minutes had been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Decker and carried.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Easton stated that ADiscussion of Current Issues@ would be heard during the morning session but would continue following the Executive Session.

The motion was made by Mrs. Tuttle, seconded by Mr. Decker, and carried unanimously for approval of the agenda as submitted.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Ware made a motion to adopt the following items on the consent agenda:

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund
Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for
Literary Fund Loans
Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary
Fund Loans or Placement on Waiting
List

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Yecke and carried unanimously.

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund, as of January 31, 1996, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the applications for Literary Fund Loans for the following projects was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda, subject to approval of final plans (Section 22.1-140 of the Code of Virginia) and availability of funds:

County, City or Town	School	Amount
Campbell County	Altavista Combined	\$ 4,225,000
Dinwiddie County	Dinwiddie Middle	5,000,000
Dinwiddie County	Dinwiddie High	5,000,000
Dinwiddie County	Midway Elementary	3,000,000
Rockingham County	New Broadway High	5,000,000
Fluvanna County	Fluvanna Middle	2,925,742
Highland County	Highland Elementary	9,000,000
		<u>\$26,050,742</u>

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on the Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendation that funds be released for

the following projects, was approved by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda:

County, City or Town	School	Amount
Roanoke County	Cave Springs Junior High	\$ 2,500,000
Charlottesville City	Burnley-Moran Elementary	240,000
Roanoke County	Northside High	1,500,000
Nottoway County	Nottoway High	2,500,000
Nottoway County	Nottoway Vocational	2,500,000
Winchester City	Virginia Avenue Elem.	2,500,000
		<u>\$11,740,000</u>

Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendation that initial release/commitment of Literary Funds be deferred for the following projects, due to non-availability of Literary Fund cash, was approved by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda:

First Priority Waiting List

County, City or Town	School	Amount
Campbell County	Altavista Combined School	\$4,225,000
Dinwiddie County	Dinwiddie Middle School	5,000,000
Dinwiddie County	Dinwiddie High School	5,000,000
Dinwiddie County	Midway Elementary	3,000,000
Rockingham County	Broadway High School	5,000,000
Fluvanna County	Fluvanna Middle School	2,925,742
Hanover County	Atlee Elementary School	5,000,000
Highland County	Highland Elementary	900,000

Highlight on Students

The Varina Madrigal Singers, led by music teacher Mrs. McKinney, performed a medley of songs.

Public Comment

The following persons spoke during the public comment period:

Ms. Ann Keeling	Ms. Pam Starling
Dr. Richard Boyer	Mr. Ed Kreyling
Mr. Joe Guarino	

Discussion of Current Issues

Travel with Governor

Ms. Easton reported that she accompanied Governor Allen to the Governor's Summit in New York. She noted that there was bipartisan agreement about the need for states to develop standards and assessments and Virginia was a leader among the states with widely recognized solid academic standards.

Resolution

Ms. Easton introduced and made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, HB 30, the 1996-98 biennial budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia, has been passed by the General Assembly and soon will be presented to the Governor; and

Whereas, Item 131#8c as amended instructs the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to apply for A federal funds* on behalf of local school divisions if 85 or more of the local school boards pass resolutions requesting such funds; and,

Whereas, this language referring to federal funds may be construed to include the federal AGoals 2000" program; and,

Whereas, the State Board of Education understands that there is much misinformation about the nature of AGoals 2000,* and, specifically there is a mistaken impression that there are few or no Astrings* attached to this federal funding program; and,

Whereas, the State Board of Education has carefully examined the federal law establishing AGoals 2000" (Public Law 103-227), which law exceeds 150 pages in length; and,

Whereas, the State Board of Education recognizes that there are significant limitations, controls and mandated requirements on state and local governments under the federal law establishing the AGoals 2000" program; and,

Whereas, the State Board of Education recognizes that, despite assurances of flexibility, the U. S. Secretary of Education has no legal authority to waive any requirements imposed by Congress in the AGoals 2000" law; and,

Whereas, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction=s , memorandum of March 18, 1996 to Division Superintendents, prepared in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General and based on its legal advice, sets forth some of the specific requirements that local school divisions must meet to qualify for the opportunity to compete for AGoals 2000" funding; and,

Whereas, the State Board of Education recognizes that education reform in Virginia, including adoption of rigorous academic standards and regular testing based on those standards, is proceeding well without federal assistance or intrusion; and,

Whereas, acceptance of AGoals 2000" funds by Virginia school divisions would pose a significant risk of federal interference and control over education reform in Virginia while providing funding equaling about .1 of 1% of the total amount of allocated for K-12 in the 1996-98 biennial budget;

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Board of Education urges the Governor to veto the budget provision regarding

AGoals 2000.®

Mrs. Yecke seconded the motion.

Senator Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Patterson, to table the resolution. The motion failed on a vote of three ayes and six opposed.

The motion was made by Mrs. Tuttle and seconded by Mrs. Yecke, to adopt the resolution. The motion carried with a vote of seven ayes and two opposed.

Report and Recommendations from the State Council on Vocational Education

Ms. Sylvia Weinstein presented the report of the State Council on Vocational Education. As part of the report, she presented the recommendations of the Council (Appendix A).

Report on Outcome Accountability Program Results for 1994-96

Dr. Boshier reported that the Outcome Accountability Project report includes 46 indicators of students' educational performance reported at the state, division, and school levels. It was noted that Virginia students continued to improve on a majority of those indicators over a five-year reporting period. The Outcome Accountability Project statistics are for more than 1,600 public schools and 133 school divisions in Virginia.

First Review of the Nominations to the Advisory Board for Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL)

Ms. Easton stated that this report was received for first review. She reported that final review of these nominations would be considered in executive session at the next business meeting of the Board of Education.

Report on the Wearing of Uniforms in Public Schools

The Board received, for first review, the guidelines for schools or divisions to use when considering mandatory school uniform policies. These guidelines will be brought to the Board for final action at its May meeting.

Brochure: Governor's Budget Proposal

Dr. Boshier called attention to the brochure prepared by the Department of Education staff regarding the Governor's budget

proposals.

Dr. Boshier commended Senator Jones for his dedication and effort in attending and appearing before the money committees of the General Assembly to request money for assessment of the Standards of Learning.

Executive Session

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to Virginia Code '2.1-344.A.6, to discuss the investing of public funds where competition and bargaining is involved relating to testing and assessment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Decker and carried. The Board went into executive session at 11:17 a.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion, seconded by Mr. Decker, and carried unanimously, that the Board reconvene in open session. The Board reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board certify by roll call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification motion applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Senator Jones - Aye
Mr. Decker - Aye
Mr. Harris - Aye
Mr. Patterson - Aye
Mrs. Tuttle - Aye
Ms. Yecke - Aye
Mrs. James - Aye
Ms. Easton - Aye

Mr. Ware abstained from the motion but noted his concurrence with its substance.

Ms. Easton stated that there will be another executive session at the next meeting to continue discussion of this item.

It was reported that the following tentative policy decisions for the RFP were made at the executive session:

- (1) Assessments at grades 3, 5, 8, and 10
- (2) All four tests will be as technically accurate and reliable as possible.
- (3) A writing sample at grades 8 and 10
- (4) Tests will be machine scorable with a minimal number of non-machine scorable as needed to address the Standards of Learning.

Discussion of Current Issues

History and Social Science Committee

Senator Jones reported on meetings of the History and Social Science Committee with representatives of the Virginia Consortium of Social Studies Specialists and College Educators and the Virginia Council for the Social Studies. He presented the following resolution:

Whereas, a committee of the Board of Education consisting of the President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, and a member was appointed to review concerns raised about the Standards of Learning in History and Social Science; and

Whereas, the committee of the Board held two lengthy and detailed meetings with representatives of the Virginia Consortium of Social Studies Specialists and College Educators and the Virginia Council for the Social Studies; and

Whereas, the social studies representatives expressed concern that (1) important social studies skills were not, in some instances, sufficiently expressed in the standards; (2) maximum flexibility be allowed in the assessment program to meet local variation in the scope and sequence of social studies courses; (3) sufficient time be allowed localities to meet the standards; and, (4) a few of the individual social studies standards needed greater precision in order to better guide local curriculum decisions; and

Whereas, the committee notes the General Assembly's actions as stated in the 1996-98 Appropriation Act, which requires the following:

- 1) That no more than four tests of the Standards of Learning shall be administered;
- 2) That results of the 1997 field test of the Standards of Learning assessment will not be released; and
- 3) That the results of the 1997 and 1998 administrations of the Standards of Learning assessments not be used for any consequences.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Education as follows:

That during the development of the Standards of Learning assessments in History and Social Science, the content review committees, to be established to work with the test contractors, examine the other concerns raised in order to consider the feasibility of resolving these concerns through the assessment process and bring recommendations to the Board for approval. For example, a list of specific social studies skills to be tested might be developed as an appendix to the standards;

Be it further resolved, that the Board extend its appreciation to the classroom teachers, curriculum specialists and college educators who have presented their professional observations through the Virginia Consortium of Social Studies Specialists and College Educators and the Virginia Council for the Social Studies; and

Be it finally resolved, that a copy of this resolution be mailed to all division superintendents and to the leadership of the professional organizations involved in the review of the Standards of Learning in History and Social Science.

Senator Jones moved for adoption of the resolution. Mr. Harris seconded the motion which carried.

NCAA Convention

Mrs. Tuttle reported that she received a letter from a Virginia Beach principal regarding a rule change by the NCAA Convention. This change eliminates consideration of eighth-grade courses for core requirements regardless of the course content or level. She feels this will discourage students seeking NCAA scholarships to achieve academically. She feels that the Board should consider, at least by resolution, a request of the NCAA to reconsider their decision.

Request from Pulaski County

Mrs. Tuttle reported that she has received a letter from the Pulaski County School Board with a resolution passed by their school board. The resolution asks the State Department of Education to consider changing the testing period for the Literacy Passport Test from February to April or May because of frequent closures because of weather. She would like for the Department of Education staff to report to the Board on the feasibility of making this change.

ABTEL Executive Committee

Mrs. Yecke reported on the March Executive Committee Meeting of ABTEL. She noted that the Teacher Licensure and Teacher Education committees met.

Mrs. Yecke attended the committee on Teacher Licensure. The items discussed included the technology standards and reduction in endorsement areas. She stated that the next meeting will be held on April 14.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 3:05 p.m.

President

